

## Burns victim 'did not die of injuries'

A CARE home has been cleared of any blame over the death of a dementia patient who was burned when she was placed on a commode of 'exceptionally' hot water. Violet Smith died of natural causes and, although her burns were 'significant', they were healing, Huddersfield coroner Roger Whittaker ruled yesterday. Despite the verdict and a criminal trial clearing

nurses at the Carlinghow home in Batley, West Yorkshire, of wilful neglect, Mrs Smith's son, Rodney, is still pursuing a civil action against the nursing home. 'What my mother went through in the lead-up to her death was horrific,' he said. Mrs Smith, 87, was treated for the burns she sustained in January 2008 but died from bronchial pneumonia a month later.

## Graffiti artist gang jailed for six years

A GANG of graffiti artists who caused £70,000 of damage to Tube trains were jailed for a total of six years yesterday. Six members of Australian Mother F\*\*\*\*\*s tagged the capital's trains so others could admire their work. One, 22-year-old Adrian Hing, went 'decorating' the day he came to Britain. 'Each of you are intelligent men and talented artists,' Judge

Michael Gledhill told them at Southwark Crown Court. 'To see you in the dock facing a custodial sentence is quite appalling,' Hing, with three more men from Dalston and two of Bromley-by-Bow, east London, admitted criminal damage. Judge Gledhill added: 'Those who become involved in graffiti must face a custodial sentence.'

# Racist attacks force 20 families to flee homes

MORE than 100 Romanian immigrants have fled their homes in Belfast after suffering a series of racist attacks.

The 20 families were forced to seek sanctuary in a church after some were threatened by armed

By Miles Erwin

gunmen and told to 'go home'. Others had their houses broken into and windows smashed as they cowered inside.

After being moved to a sports

centre so they could be properly looked after, the families were told yesterday they would be temporarily re-housed.

But many vowed to leave Northern Ireland for good. 'We are OK, we are safe now,' said

one mother, called Maria. 'But we want to go home because right now we are not safe here.'

'I want to go home because I have two kids and I want my kids to be safe.'

Racial tensions have been simmering in the province following trouble at a football match against Poland in March.

On Monday evening, youths attacked an anti-racism rally, hurling bottles at marchers and performing Nazi salutes.

The following night, the 114 Romanians fled their homes after the attacks on two families' houses in south Belfast.

Yesterday, they were offered emergency lodgings by the Northern Ireland government.

Belfast lord mayor Naomi Long urged the community to rally round their neighbours following the attacks. 'These kind of ugly scenes are totally unacceptable,' she said.

Prime minister Gordon Brown joined the condemnation, urging police to take 'all the necessary action' to protect the immigrants.



Refugees:  
A  
Romanian  
family  
arrives at  
a sports  
centre in  
Belfast  
after  
fleeing  
their  
home  
Picture: PA